



Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Eighteenth Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

August 20, 2018

Dear Friends in Law Enforcement, Firefighters and First Responders,

Greetings in the Lord!

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and selfless dedication to the common good. Your willingness to place yourselves in harm's way is not only an example of courage but truly a force for good in our local community as well as throughout our nation. Your generous service maintains order and safety and at times can be taken for granted. It is our intention never to take that service for granted.

On the contrary, I invite you and all your confreres to attend the annual "Blue Mass" here at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The "Blue Mass" takes its name from the color of the uniforms that you wear. It provides an opportunity for us to pray for your safety and bestow a special blessing upon you who serve us at such great risk.

All are welcome to attend the "Blue Mass" and to receive the prayers and blessing regardless of religion. The "Blue Mass" will take place here at the Cathedral Basilica located on 18th Street at the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, on Sunday, September 30, at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass. Limited parking is available.

It is my sincere hope that you and your confreres and your families will join us for the "Blue Mass." Please feel free to disseminate this invitation to all in your district/station.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Rector and Pastor